

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF  
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 03-54

Introduced by Council President Wagner at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Session Day No. 03-24

Date: September 16, 2003

AN ORDINANCE approving and providing for a multi-year Installment Purchase Agreement by Harford County, Maryland to acquire development rights in up to 358 acres of land used for agricultural purposes located at Richards Lane, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001 from Phyllis Preston Pusey, or any other owner thereof for a maximum purchase price of \$3,500.00 per acre or portion thereof (excluding one acre for any existing residential dwelling); providing that the County's obligation to pay such purchase price and interest thereon shall be a full faith and credit general obligation of the County; providing for the levying of taxes for such payments; authorizing the County Executive to make modifications in such Agreement under certain circumstances; providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.

By the Council,

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: October 14, 2003

at: 7:00 p.m.

By Order: Barbara J. Ruth, Council Administrator

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on October 14, 2003, and concluded on October 14, 2003.

Barbara J. Ruth, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [BRACKETS] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

RECITALS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 524 of the Charter of Harford County (the "Charter"), the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Harford County, Maryland (the "County") the Budget for fiscal year 2004, Bill No. 03-16 (the "Budget Ordinance") includes a project permitting the County to enter into installment purchase agreements to acquire development rights in agricultural lands located within the County, which Budget Ordinance was adopted by the County Council of Harford County, Maryland (the "County Council"), in accordance with the Charter.

Section 520 of the Charter provides that "any contract, lease or other obligation in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) requiring the payment of funds from the appropriations of a later fiscal year shall be authorized by legislative act, and Section 524 of the Charter provides that the County may incur debt and pursuant to Bill No. 93-2 passed by the County Council on April 6, 1993, approved by the County Executive of the County on April 20, 1993, and effective on June 21, 1993, and Bill No. 01-17, passed by the County Council on August 7, 2001, approved by the County Executive on August 9, 2001, and effective on October 9, 2001 (the "Authorizing Act"), the County has been authorized and empowered to enter into installment purchase agreements to purchase easements for agricultural land preservation purposes.

The Authorizing Act provides that after review by the Harford County Agricultural Advisory Board in accordance with the County's Easement Priority Ranking System and approval by the Harford County Board of Estimates, the County Council, may approve and provide for the acquisition of the development rights in each particular parcel of agricultural land, as defined in the Authorizing Act.

Attached to this Ordinance as Exhibit A is an application to sell a development rights easement signed by the landowner where land used for agricultural purposes is the subject of this Ordinance.

Attached to this Ordinance as Exhibit B are records of The Harford County Agricultural Advisory Board evaluating all applications to offer development right easements to the County, with each application ranked pursuant to the County's easement priority ranking system.

The County has now determined to enter into an Installment Purchase Agreement with Phyllis Preston Pusey, or any other person who is or becomes the owner of all or any portion of the Land (hereinafter defined) prior to execution and delivery of such Agreement, in order to acquire the development rights in approximately 358 acres, more or less, of land used for agricultural purposes located at Richards Lane, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001 within the County for an aggregate purchase price not in excess of \$1,253,000, plus interest thereon, the actual amount of the purchase price to be equal to the lesser of such maximum amount or \$3,500.00 times the number of acres in such land (minus one acre for any existing residential dwelling located thereon), upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

NOW, THEREFORE:

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That

(a) Harford County, Maryland (the "County") shall enter into an Installment Purchase Agreement (the "Installment Purchase Agreement") with Phyllis Preston Pusey, or any person who is or becomes the owner of all or any portion of the Land (hereinafter defined) prior to the execution and delivery of the Installment Purchase Agreement (the "Seller") in order to acquire the development rights in approximately 358 acres of land, more or less, located at Richards Lane, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001 within the County (the "Land"), for an aggregate

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1 purchase price not in excess of \$1,253,000.00 (the "Purchase Price"), plus interest thereon as  
2 hereinafter provided; provided that the actual amount of the Purchase Price shall be equal to the  
3 lesser of such maximum amount or \$3,500.00 multiplied by the number of acres in the Land  
4 (minus one acre for any existing residential dwelling located thereon);

5 (b) The Installment Purchase Agreement shall be in substantially the form  
6 attached hereto as Exhibit C and made a part hereof, and in such form the Installment Purchase  
7 Agreement is hereby approved as to form and content. The Installment Purchase Agreement  
8 shall be dated as of the date of its execution and delivery by the County and the Seller (the  
9 "Closing Date");

10 (c) A portion of the Purchase Price, in the amount determined as hereinafter  
11 provided, shall be paid in cash on the Closing Date. The balance of the Purchase Price shall be  
12 paid to the Seller in each year thereafter to and including a date not more than twenty (20) years  
13 after the Closing Date. The dates on which each such installment is payable shall be determined  
14 by the County Executive and the Treasurer and shall be inserted in the form of the Installment  
15 Purchase Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit C;

16 (d) Interest on the unpaid balance of the Purchase Price shall accrue from the  
17 Closing Date and shall be payable at least annually in each year, commencing on the first of such  
18 dates to follow the Closing Date and continuing to and including a date not more than 20 years  
19 after the Closing Date at an interest rate equal to the yield on U.S. Treasury STRIPS maturing on  
20 the date next preceding the final maturity date in the Installment Purchase Agreement determined  
21 as of the business day preceding the Closing Date and rounded to the next highest 0.05% per  
22 annum. Interest shall be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;

(e) The County's obligation to make payments of the Purchase Price under the Installment Purchase Agreement and to pay interest thereon is and shall be a general obligation of the County and is and shall be made upon its full faith and credit.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND,

That it is hereby found and determined that:

(a) The acquisition of the development rights in the Land as set forth in Section 1 of this Ordinance and in the form of the Installment Purchase Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit C is in the best interests of the County;

(b) The Installment Purchase Agreement is a contract providing for the payment of funds at a time beyond the fiscal year in which it is made and requires the payment of funds from appropriations of later fiscal years;

(c) Funds for the payment of the Purchase Price under the Installment Purchase Agreement are included in the Budget Ordinance, As Amended;

(d) The County shall acquire the development rights in the Land in perpetuity;

(e) The Purchase Price is within the legal limitation on the indebtedness of the County as set forth in Article 25A, § 5(P) of the Annotated Code of Maryland;

(f) The cost of acquiring the development rights in the Land is equal to the Purchase Price;

(g) The only practical way to acquire the development rights in the Land is by private negotiated agreement between the County and the Seller.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That the Installment Purchase Agreement shall be signed by the County Executive of the County (the "County Executive") by his manual signature, and

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1 the Installment Purchase Agreement shall bear the corporate seal of the County, attested by the  
2 manual signature of the Director of Administration of the County (the "Director of  
3 Administration"). In the event that any officer whose signature shall appear on the Installment  
4 Purchase Agreement shall cease to be such officer before the delivery of the Installment Purchase  
5 Agreement, such signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as  
6 if such officer had remained in office until delivery.

7 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF  
8 HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That the County Executive and the Treasurer are hereby  
9 authorized, prior to execution and delivery of the Installment Purchase Agreement, to make such  
10 changes or modifications in the form of the Installment Purchase Agreement attached hereto as  
11 Exhibit C as may be required or deemed appropriate by them in order to accomplish the purpose  
12 of the transactions (including, but not limited to, determining the portion of the Purchase Price to  
13 be paid in cash on the Closing Date and establishment of interest and principal payment dates in  
14 each year that the Installment Purchase Agreement is outstanding) authorized by this Ordinance;  
15 provided that such changes shall be within the scope of the transactions authorized by this  
16 Ordinance and the execution of the Installment Purchase Agreement by the County Executive  
17 shall be conclusive evidence of the approval by the County Executive of all changes or  
18 modifications in the form of the Installment Purchase Agreement and shall thereupon become  
19 binding upon the County in accordance with its terms, as authorized by Section 524 of the  
20 Charter and the Authorizing Act (collectively, the "Enabling Legislation"), and as provided for in  
21 this Ordinance.

22 SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF  
23 HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That the County Executive, the Director of  
24 Administration, the Treasurer of the County and other officials of the County are hereby

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authorized and empowered to do all such acts and things and to execute, acknowledge, seal and deliver such documents (including a Tax Certificate and Compliance Agreement) and certificates as the County Executive may determine to be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this Ordinance subject to the limitations set forth in the Enabling Legislation and any limitations set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That the Treasurer of the County is hereby designated and appointed as registrar and paying agent for the Installment Purchase Agreement (the "Registrar"). The Registrar shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, books of the County for the registration and transfer of ownership of the Installment Purchase Agreement. In addition, the County may, from time to time, designate and appoint the Department of the Treasury of the County, any officer or employee of the County or one or more banks, trust companies, corporations or other financial institutions to act as a substitute or alternate registrar or paying agent for the Installment Purchase Agreement, and any such substitute or alternate shall be deemed to be the Registrar or an alternate Registrar for all purposes specified in the resolution appointing such substitute or alternate. Any such appointment shall be made by the County Council by resolution and the exercise of such power of appointment, no matter how often, shall not be an exhaustion thereof.

SECTION 7. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That for the purpose of paying the installments of the Purchase Price when due and payable and the interest on the unpaid portion of the Purchase Price when due and payable, there is hereby levied, and there shall hereafter be levied in each fiscal year that any portion of the Purchase Price payable under the Installment Purchase Agreement remains outstanding, *ad valorem* taxes on real and tangible personal property and intangible

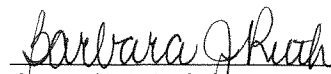
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1 property subject to taxation by the County, without limitation of rate or amount, and, in addition,  
2 upon such other intangible property as may be subject to taxation by the County within  
3 limitations prescribed by law, in an amount sufficient, together with the portion of the transfer  
4 tax imposed on transfers of real property in Harford County which is dedicated to agricultural  
5 land preservation and other available funds, to pay any installment of the Purchase Price under  
6 the Installment Purchase Agreement maturing during the succeeding year and to pay the annual  
7 interest on the outstanding balance of the Purchase Price until all of the Purchase Price under the  
8 Installment Purchase Agreement and such interest have been paid in full; and the full faith and  
9 credit and the unlimited taxing power of the County are hereby irrevocably pledged to the  
10 punctual payment of the Purchase Price under the Installment Purchase Agreement and the  
11 interest on the unpaid balance of the Purchase Price as and when the same respectively become  
12 due and payable.

13 SECTION 8. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF  
14 HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, That this Ordinance shall take effect sixty (60) calendar  
15 days after it becomes law.

16 EFFECTIVE: December 30, 2003

17  
18  
19 The Council Administrator of the Council does  
20 hereby certify that fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are  
21 immediately available for distribution to the public  
22 and the press.

23  
24  
25   
26 Council Administrator



HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 03-54

Brief Title Agricultural Preservation – Pusey

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

**CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT**

Barbara J. Ruth  
Council Administrator

Date October 14, 2003

**ENROLLED**

Robert S. Wagner  
Council President

Date October 14, 2003

**BY THE COUNCIL**

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 03-26

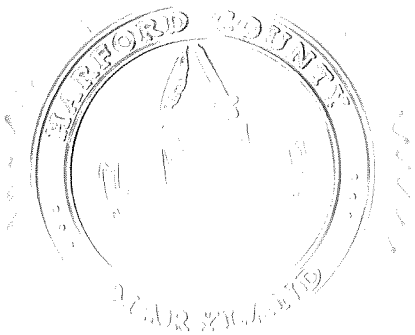
Failed of Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

By Order

Barbara J. Ruth  
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 15th day of October, 2003 at 3:00p.m.

Barbara J. Ruth  
Council Administrator



**BY THE EXECUTIVE**

James R. Harkin  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date 10-31-03

**BY THE COUNCIL**

This Bill No. 03-54, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on October 31, 2003

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 30, 2003

Barbara J. Ruth  
Barbara J. Ruth, Council Administrator